

SJCC Parish Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes – June 3, 2020

The meeting opened with prayer, led by Father Neville, followed by some faith sharing.

Commission Updates: The Facilities Commission shared that at the end of January the emergency response plan had been completed. It will be passed over to our new Pastor, Fr. John Worgul for review and affirmation, and then onto the Archdiocese for final approval. In February approximately 20 volunteers and staff members attended a CPR certification course. The outstanding safety concerns have been remedied. (AED added to the office hallway & a gas shut off valve outside of the main kitchen). Back in March the Sykesville church reopened* and the renovations were completed. The Eldersburg church renovations have also been completed. (These were carried over projects from the Jubilee). *Due to COVID-19, the Sykesville church is still closed to the public for health/safety reasons. It can be utilized under conditions where safety restrictions can be monitored/adhered to. There are still some larger projects from the Jubilee fund that have been put on hold due to current circumstances. As restrictions are lifted from COVID-19, planning will start for these projects.

The Christian Formation Commission shared more updates on the status of the changing faith formation programs. It has been receiving positive feedback. Three catechists recently joined a meeting regarding the new program, and they were excited about the new format. The model of this program is more comprehensive. It also will provide more information for parents so that they will be given necessary tools to fully assist in the learning process, essentially becoming the primary catechist for the children. There will be a lead catechist assigned to each grade level that will function as a mentor and teacher on an as-needed basis. They will also check in on the families to ensure that there is progress being made and answer any questions that may arise. April and Angela will also be involved. There will be a larger online component than that from the past. Online assessments will help to gauge the participation, learning, and each child's understanding. Also, the overall cost should be comparable to the programs of the past.

The group then spent some time reviewing the past year and voiced praise, critiques, and potential changes that could be made going forward. In summary, the parish plan is a good tool for keeping all focused and guiding decision making. There were moments where getting caught up in the finer details seemingly wasted time, however, it is something that is important not just to the PPC, but to all of SJCC. Some of the structuring of the meetings was revisited based on the feedback, such as prayer/faith sharing, small breaks within the meetings, and small group discussions. Timeliness around receiving communication and/or homework could be improved. Inviting the families of young children was a huge positive and it would behoove the PPC to continue to find ways to solicit feedback in a manner similar to that exercise. Furthermore, a lot of information is covered at each meeting. There have been great discussions, but sometimes the follow up is lacking. Lastly, we should revisit the invitation process of/to the PPC and find ways to be more diverse.

Pastors Report: Father Neville addressed the outgoing members (with heartfelt thanks) for their time and service on the PPC: Josh Thiem, Laura Bird, Nick Pinto, Catherine Milstead, Bill Jones, James Fetter, and Emily Klezer. He also thanked the others for their time and service. He shared the impression that the PPC has made on him during his time with SJCC, and how important the work that is done through the PPC is. Thanks to the Council, his vision was broadened. He encouraged the group to keep allowing the Holy Spirit to work through them so that the community can continue to grow and expand beyond the status quo.

Fr. John then addressed the group with a small introduction to his history with the church. Some time was spent going through the history of the Anglican Church and what is an Ordinariate. The Ordinariate works closely with the diocese, so Fr. John reports to 2 bishops. However, this will not impact the overall culture/environment of SJCC as we know it. Masses will remain the same, and we can expect to see Fr. John frequently. He is extremely excited about his new role and supports the processes that are currently in place: the PPC, the plan, and the community as a whole. His greatest joy has been observing parishioners participate in evangelization and formation and then become leaders within the church. He asks that we all (continue to) pray for him on this journey.

Terry also thanked the group for all of their hard work and support over the course of the year.

The meeting concluded with prayer.

Attendance: Fr. Neville O'Donohue, Fr. John Worgul, Terry Morse, Tony Gioio, Joselle Ruddle, Sue Wilson, Sharon Borcharding, Gwen Lily, Chris Patrick, Rachel Wandishin, John Pavlik, Catherine Milstead, James Fetter, Laura Bird, Bob Bastress, Josh Thiem, Bruce Baumgarten, Bill Jones, Karen Spivey, Leigh Ann Gagnon, and Robert Muhl.